

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

Chair: Peter Burling
Vice Chair: Katherine Hersh

May 28, 2010
10:00 am
LOB 201

Present: Chair Peter Burling, Vice-Chair Katherine Hersh, Kerrie Diers, David Preece, Mark Brewer, Robert Hall, Mike Izbicki, Michael King, Nancy Larson, Thomas Mahon, Tim Moore, Kit Morgan, Ted Starkweather, Mike Tardiff, Malcolm Taylor, Mike Pillsbury

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Input – *Members of the public wishing to will be given an opportunity to address the NHRTA Board.*

Senator Barbara Pressly – would like to make a suggestion to add #11 on the MOU with the NHDOT:

Designate a person to communicate and cooperate with other states in the formation and implementation of a regional rail service

Also suggests that we call it a service and not a plan.

Malcom Taylor reported that there is a regional group that meets monthly through the NE Governors Association and there is a new NERC website.

Stephen Flanders – Asked if Chair Burling had received the information about the study at Tuck School. Chair Burling affirmed receipt.

- III. Minutes
 - a. Minutes of March 26, 2010 – Tom Mahon moved and Tim Moore seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion approved unanimously.
- IV. NH Capitol Corridor Updates
 - a. Status of Grant Application – Chair Burling thanked Kit Morgan for his work on the application. The Board echoed the sentiment and applauded the work of the NHDOT.

Kit Morgan stated we applied for \$2.24 million for a total project of \$2.8 million for Concord to Boston rail service. This grant is to prepare an environmental report for the entire corridor. It is clear that we can do this in conjunction with the FTA funding. We will also look at service alternatives in the capitol corridor – engineering through to construction.

Kit thanked everyone for their letters of support, especially from Amtrak and all the other support.

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- b. Next steps to secure \$1.9 million FTA funds:
Kit stated that we have begun discussions with FTA to access this source of funds. Once we have secured the FRA grant, we will move forward. Chair Burling stated that we are the only small state that is taking this approach, and it is a unique approach to this funding.
- c. Amtrak update – As a result of a 2008 law, they will be running 15 core routes with federal funding, the remaining routes will pay 100% of non-fare box operating costs and some percentage of indirect costs. Uncertain what this means for NH. “Relevant” states must be self declared and methodology agreed to unanimously.
- d. Economic Impact Study – *vote to accept report and white paper* –

David Preece made a motion to accept the report and white paper, seconded by Kathy Hersh.

Mike Izbicki summarized the white paper and the next steps that need to be studied. This is a conservative high level report that will be fleshed out in the planning.

Motion was approved unanimously.

David Preece suggested we all promote the report through our respective outreach outlets (newsletters, website, etc). David Preece offered to create a one-page outreach piece that we can use to promote the findings of this report. Senator Pressly mentioned that the NHAARP recently joined the NERC.

- e. Plaistow MBTA – Will be submitting a TIGER grant to US DOT. This is the next step and has been reviewed by both NHDOT and MA. MBTA and Plaistow might be co-applicants. This is still to be determined.

Will there be impact on to the Downeaster? If there is any info available, it would be great to get that at our next meeting.

- f. Other - none

V. Other Discussion

- a. Draft MOU – *vote to approve*

Tom Mahon moved to approve the draft MOU with NHDOT, seconded by Malcom Taylor.

Amendment made by Kathy Hersh: insert comma and insert Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and to amend D to delete “in consultation...”

Seconded by David Preece

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Amendment passed unanimously.

Kathy noted the recommendation from Senator Pressly to add an item #11 under item B.

David Preece made a motion to amend the draft MOU as suggested by Senator Pressly, seconded by Tom Mahon.

David Preece suggested we should also include this as part of NHRTA duties.

David Preece withdrew motion, seconded by Tom Mahon.

David Preece made a motion, seconded by Michael King to add:

Item F – It shall be a shared obligation of both the NHDOT and the NHRTA to collaborate and work with other states in the formation and implementation of a regional rail service.

Senator Pressly suggested that we use the specific language to encourage specific people to work together. The more people talking to each other and working together the better.

Motion approved unanimously.

Michael King made a motion to authorize Chair or Vice-Chair to sign MOU on behalf of NHRTA, seconded by David Preece.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Kerrie will finalize and send to Kathy for review.

Mike Izbicki suggested we have a press conference to have an official signing of the MOU. This should be done.

- b. State Rail Plan – Kit Morgan announced that HDR, and project manager Ron O'Brien, was selected to negotiate a fee for developing the state rail plan.
- c. Enfield bridge project – Chair Burling summarized the project. DOT has decided to separate the rail bridge project from the main project to examine separately. Michael King reminded the NHRTA that we tabled a resolution regarding this project. Chair Burling suggested we keep it tabled until DOT begins that project status. We will keep this on the agenda as a tabled item.
- d. Other

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Tim Moore made a motion to nominate the current slate of officers, seconded by Tom Mahon. Tom Mahon moved to close nomination, seconded by Michael King.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Non-public session

VIII. Adjourn – Tom Mahon move to adjourn

Bob Hall wanted to update the NHRTA on the Exeter Downeaster service. TE was recommended as number 10 project on the list and hopes to receive funding.

Next Meetings:

June 25, 2010

July 23, 2010